

**10/565714**  
PCT/JP2004/010619**IAP20 Rec'd PCT/JP 24 JAN 2006**

## AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS UNDER PCT ARTICLE 19(1)

With respect to International Application No. PCT/JP2004/010619, filed on July 26, 2004, the applicant

5 canceled sheet 15 of the Description entirely and submitted substitute sheets 15-1 and 15-2 which are attached hereto. The phrase "3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object" in claims 1 and 2

10 is changed to "3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object and being 3-dimensional voxel data" based on page 3, lines 1-4, in the Description, in order to clarify that 3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object are 3-dimensional voxel data.

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## CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An image processing method which processes 3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object and being 3-dimensional voxel data, the 3-dimensional object composed of a single block, the image processing method comprising:

a start point setting step of setting a start point of continuity in the 3-dimensional CT data to the single block; and

a continuity detecting step of detecting the 3-dimensional CT data having continuity with the start point set in the start point setting step,

wherein the 3-dimensional CT data are rearranged based on the 3-dimensional CT data having the continuity detected in the continuity detecting step.

2. (Amended) An image processing method which processes 3-dimensional CT data obtained from a 3-dimensional object and being 3-dimensional voxel data, the 3-dimensional object composed of a plurality of blocks in a predetermined area of the 3-dimensional object, the image processing method comprising:

a start point setting step of setting, for each of the plurality of blocks, a start point of continuity in the 3-dimensional CT data to the block concerned; and

a continuity detecting step of detecting, for each of the plurality of blocks, the 3-dimensional CT data having continuity with the start point set in the start point setting step,

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wherein the 3-dimensional CT data are  
rearranged based on the 3-dimensional CT data having the  
continuity detected in the continuity detecting step.

- 5           3. An image processing method according to  
claim